

Attorney Docket No. T3264-906761

REMARKS

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of this application as amended.

By this Amendment, independent claims have been amended to recite that the scope, and thus the access control rule, is capable of being interpreted by each of the plurality of firewalls differently depending on the value of the scope and network resource characteristics associated with each of the plurality of firewalls.

Applicants are concerned that Reid and Antur suffer from the same drawbacks as discussed in Applicants' background of the invention. More specifically, in Antur, while management of firewall servers from a central administration point is discussed on column 6, lines 47-64, Antur specifically states that "from the central administration point, the user can configure or reconfigure each firewall server to have separate security characteristics or configure or reconfigure groups of firewall servers to have the same security characteristics." While a single point of administration for multiple firewalls is provided by Antur, Antur does not provide the flexibility as the present invention. For example, as discussed in the specification, an exemplary feature of the invention relates to declaring, among the types of groups defined by the administrator, control rules whose scope is limited to each firewall or extended to the system 2. The administrator specifies for the access control rules whether the scope is local to the firewall or global. A rule of local scope defines the access relationships between resource groups, said resources belonging to the same protection domain. The local scope makes it possible to limit the rule to access inside the protection domain 5. A rule of global scope defines the possible access relationships between two groups in the system 2 as a whole. A rule of global scope is saved and can always be used by the administrator to handle general cases of the security policy. Rules of global scope govern the access relationships of the group The "local" or "global" scope attribute of each rule is attached to each rule in such a way

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that each firewall individually knows the scope of the rules (see pages 7 and 8 of the specification).

Neither Reid or Antur teach or suggest this configurability nor provide any infrastructure, or other means of being able to define the access control rules as claimed.

In that none of the cited references, taken either alone or in combination, teach or suggest the claimed features, Applicants respectfully submit independent Claims 11 and 23 are patentably distinguishable from the references of record. Moreover, the claims that depend therefrom are allowable for at least the reasons outlined above and the additional feature(s) recited therein. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request a prompt Notice of Allowance.

Should the Examiner believe that any further action is necessary to place this application in better form for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' representative at the telephone number listed below.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge to Deposit Account No. 50-1165 (T3264-906761) any fees under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 and 1.17 that may be required by this paper and to credit any overpayment to that Account. If any extension of time is required in connection with the filing of this paper and has not been separately requested, such extension is hereby requested.

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October 11, 2005

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CERTIFICATE OF FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being facsimile transmitted to the United States Patent and Trademark Office on the date shown below.

11 Oct 05
Date

Jason H. Vick